

Library and Information History Group Newsletter

Spring 2014



#Shelfie

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/booksblog/2013/dec/16/shelfie-show-photo-your-bookshelf>

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION HISTORY NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of the Library and Information History Group, a special interest group of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)

Series 4, no. 29 January 2014

ISSN 1744-3180

LIHG Newsletter Dates 2014

Copy

Summer 2014: 9 May

Winter 2014: 12 September

Issue

Summer 2014: 16 May

Winter 2014: 26 September

Copy should be sent to the new newsletter editor: Anna James, Regent's Park College, Pusey Street, Oxford, OX1 2LB, anna.james@yahoo.ac.uk

CONTENTS

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR	2
LIHG DIARY	2
STOP PRESS – BRITISH LIBRARY PRESERVATION ADVISORY CENTRE CLOSURE	3
LIHG MEMBERSHIP	3
FORTHCOMING EVENTS.....	4
Courses, seminars and lectures	4
Exhibitions.....	5
Other events	6
NEW RESOURCES	6
In print.....	6
Online.....	7
NEWS IN BRIEF	7
NEWS IN DEPTH	8
Sermons at the Coffee House Library	8
The London Rare Books School and a New Course on the History of Libraries.....	10
Historic Libraries Forum annual conference.....	10
News of historic religious libraries.....	11
Library Camp and the Unconference Movement	13
AWARDS AND PRIZES.....	14
Awards and prizes received	14
Awards and grants offered	14
CALL FOR PAPERS.....	15
Library & Information History Conference 2014: Medieval and Renaissance Lost Libraries	15
Error and Print Culture, 1500-1800:	15
Forms and Formats: Experimenting with Print, 1695-1815.....	16

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2014! The Library & Information History Group are marshalling in a lot of changes with this newsletter. Anna James is our new Newsletter Editor, Jo Maddocks is our new Events Secretary, and I'm the new Chair.

I want to first of all thank Kathryn McKee for all of her hard work as Chair for the past four years, and for her contribution to the group for the past ten years. The group has continually grown in strength during her tenure as Chair and I can only hope to contribute as significantly as she has.

The call for papers for our 2014 conference is now ready and can be found on p.15. The deadline for submissions is March 3rd, 2014. We have sent out an invitation to an exciting guest speaker for the conference, so please do check the hub (www.lihg.org) for further details. This year's conference will also feature a special one hour walking tour led by Alice Ford-Smith to take place after the conference ends at 5pm. Places for the walk are limited so get your booking in early!

We were pleased to announce that Alistair Black was the winner of the Library History Essay Award for 2013. His essay on *Organizational Learning and Home-Grown Writing: The Library Staff Magazine in Britain in the First Half of the Twentieth Century* was an informative analysis of staff magazines from Croydon, Sheffield and Leeds libraries in the first half of the twentieth century.

We have some interesting events lined up for 2014: a repeat of our 'Lonely Hearts' walk on the 14th February; a visit to the South Place Ethical Library on the 19th of March; and a committee meeting to be held in Oxford on the 15th of May. Annie Mauger may be joining us at the committee meeting to discuss CILIP's governance review; this will be confirmed at a later date. Full details of these and other events are available on the hub: www.lihg.org.

CILIP have introduced new guidelines for group membership for non-CILIP members. As of January 1st 2014, membership rates for all groups have gone up to £39.00. It is still free to join two special interest groups as a CILIP member. On a more positive note, student membership in CILIP is now free.

I look forward to steering the group into the future and welcome all comments and suggestions.

Renae Satterley
Middle Temple Library
r.satterley@middletemple.org.uk

LIHG DIARY

10-21 February: Online committee meeting

14 February: LIHG Valentine's Day walk. See p. 6 for further details

19 March Visit to South Place Ethical Library

15 May at 2pm: Committee meeting (Oxford, Regents College)

24 June A new library walk, led by *Alice Ford-Smith* (Bernard Quaritch Ltd.) Details TBA

1 July Walk on 'Libraries at War' led by *Alice Ford-Smith* (Bernard Quaritch Ltd) Starting at 5.30 p.m. at the Foyle Special Collections Library's exhibition room (the old Rolls Chapel), Kings College, Strand (for a tailored display of material). Fuller details will be available at a later date. A charge of £10 will be made for this event. Cheques should be sent to Jon Millington, Institute of English Studies, Senate House, Malet St., London WC1E 7HU, and made payable to 'University of London'

12 July: LIHG conference

1-12 September: Online committee meeting

7 November: Committee meeting (London, location TBA)

STOP PRESS – BRITISH LIBRARY PRESERVATION ADVISORY CENTRE CLOSURE

It was with considerable surprise that a few eagle eyed people noticed the following statement on the home page of the British Library Preservation Advisory Centre just over a week ago:

The Preservation Advisory Centre supports the preservation of library and archive collections of all types through the provision of preservation management tools, training and information services.

What's new

We are sorry to announce that the Preservation Advisory Centre will be closing at the end of March 2014. We are currently in discussion with other stakeholders in the heritage sector, with a view to sustaining services in some form. Please note that all scheduled [training courses](#) and PAS services will be delivered. We will update this page with more information over the coming months.

<http://www.bl.uk/blpac/index.html> Accessed 20.1.14

The Preservation Advisory Centre is a well used resource of international reputation which provides a service which is not available elsewhere. It has been an invaluable support over many years for small historic collections which cannot employ permanent specialist staff to care for rare and early books. They have hosted courses, written informative literature, and given practical advice. While the shape of British Library staffing has undergone considerable changes over the last few years, it is worth noting that despite its unique service, the Preservation Advisory Centre is the only department to have been subject to a 100% reduction in staff.

The manner of the announcement of the closure, the absence of further information, and the lack of consultation with service users has gravely disappointed all who have supported and been supported by the Preservation Advisory Centre.

LIHG are working with other groups to make a formal protest through CILIP against the closure of the Centre. However, it has also been suggested that as many individuals as possible should send letters to Roly Keating, Chief Executive of the British Library (96 Euston Road, NW1 2DB) in order to demonstrate breadth of support for the Centre and depth of dismay at its closure.

The closure of the Preservation Advisory Centre is set for March, so time is relatively short. Please join us in this campaign, and check our website <http://www.lihg.org/index.php> for further developments.

Anna James

LIHG MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the group is open to all members of CILIP, either as one of two free special interest groups, or on payment of £10 as an additional group. From 1 January 2014, membership of all Special Interest Groups will be administered centrally by CILIP. CILIP has set the membership rate for all groups at £39 a year. Existing non-CILIP members who belong to the LIHG will be contacted by CILIP when their renewal is due. Those wishing to join may download a membership application form from our website or at the link below.

[Library and Information History Group Membership Application Form.pdf](#)

Membership entitles subscribers to mailings of the Library and Information History Newsletter, notice of meetings, conferences, and events, and a discount on fees for conferences and some events.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Courses, seminars and lectures

Seminar on the History of Libraries

Tuesdays 5.30, (usually) Senate House, Malet St., London WC1E 7HU

A series of research seminars, which are freely open for anyone to attend, has been organized by the [Institute of English Studies](#), School of Advanced Study, University of London. The seminars are jointly sponsored by the Institute of English Studies, the [Institute of Historical Research](#), and the [Library & Information History Group](#).

Meetings will take place monthly during term-time on **Tuesdays at 5.30 p.m.**, usually in the Senate Room on the first floor of Senate House. Changes to room allocations will be displayed on the Institute of English Studies' website.

Seminar convenors: Giles Mandelbrote (Lambeth Palace Library); Dr. Keith A. Manley (National Trust); Professor Simon Eliot (Institute of English Studies); Professor Isabel Rivers (Queen Mary).

February 4 *Professor Alan Nelson* (University of California, Berkeley): 'Tracing Books through 17th Century Libraries: the Case of Humphrey Dyson and Richard Smith'.

While tracing a particular volume from library to library (standard practice for bibliographers) is easy enough when ownership inscriptions, manuscript lists, and printed catalogues are readily available, comprehending the fate of entire libraries can be more problematic. In this talk Nelson will attempt to understand, and display in databases, the relationship between the libraries of Humphrey Dyson (d. 1633, about 2,000 titles recorded) and Richard Smith (d. 1675, up to 20,000 titles recorded).

March 4 *Ed Potten* (Cambridge University Library): 'The Rest of the Iceberg: Non-Bibliophile Libraries in the Nineteenth Century'.

There were more private libraries in the 19th century than in any earlier period and those libraries were more diverse, more varied and spanned a wider demographic than at any other time. Consequently, this should be a period of enormous interest for those studying the private library, yet demonstrably we have studied very few. Those we have studied have tended to be of a specific type - the behemoths of the bibliomania - yet for every Roxburghe or Spencer there may have been 1000 or 10,000 smaller private libraries of a type which we largely ignore currently. Collections of 100, or 500 or a thousand books, amassed not by aristocrats but by rectors, medics, artisans, university and academy students, factory workers, bakers, barbers and grocers will be considered.

Saturday May 10 *Dr Geoff Day* (Fellows' Librarian, Winchester College) will host a visit to the College Library and Archives at Winchester College.

The Fellows' Library at Winchester College has books given by the founder, William of Wykeham, at the opening of the college in 1394 and has benefited from donations ever since. This tour of the various rooms of the library will display some of the more remarkable benefactions.

Please note that the tour includes at least one medieval spiral staircase with irregular steps.

June 3 *Dr Caroline Bowden* (Queen Mary, University of London): 'Building monastic libraries in exile: the English convents and their collections in the seventeenth century.'

The English convents (apart from the Bridgettines formerly of Syon Abbey) were new foundations needing to build communities from scratch. They faced challenging conditions compared with their medieval predecessors: for instance living in exile with limited resources. Very few books appropriate to the religious life for women were available in the vernacular at the beginning of the seventeenth century. One hundred years later it is clear that the English nuns had surmounted many problems and created substantial working libraries.

This meeting may be held in the Guard Room at Lambeth Palace, but because of planned building and other works, this may not be possible, in which case it will move to Senate House. Details TBA nearer the date.

A number of seminar podcasts will be found on the website of the Institute of Historical Research at <https://historyspot.org.uk/podcasts/history-libraries>, including talks given during the last session by Alistair Black, Mark Purcell, Peter Hoare, and Geoffrey Little.

The Future and the Medical Book: conference series

Thursday 30 January 2014: The digital book

Thursday 27 February 2014: Book preservation and conservation

Thursday 20 March 2014: Writing books

The Royal College of Physicians has organised a series of five conferences to discuss the issues around 'the future and the medical book'. Each conference will have a theme and will include short talks by experts, followed by discussion. The themes include the future of libraries and their collections, conservation, digital publishing and open access, as well as writing and collecting books. These conferences are open to anyone with an interest in the future of books in general, although the focus will be on medical books.

Speakers include David Pearson, Giles Mandelbrote, Nicolas Barker, Kristian Jensen, Matija Strlic and Julia Foster. Each conference starts with registration at 3.15pm, an optional tour of the RCP building at 3.30pm, and talks and discussion from 4pm until 7pm. They are open to all, and the charge is £10 per event (free to RCP fellows and members). Buffet supper is available afterwards if booked in advance for £45 total per event.

Full information and booking forms are available online at: <http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/future-and-medical-book>
Contact enquiries@rcplondon.ac.uk for any enquiries.

Exhibitions

British Library, London

Beautiful Science: Picturing Data, Inspiring Insight

20 February - 26 May 2014

Beautiful Science explores how our understanding of ourselves and our planet has evolved alongside our ability to represent, graph and map the mass data of the time. From John Snow's plotting of the 1854 London cholera infections on a map to colourful depictions of the tree of life, discover how picturing scientific data provides new insight into our lives.

Bodleian Library, Oxford

Love and Devotion: From Persia and Beyond

Closes 28 April 2013

Celebrate the beauty of Persian manuscripts, and the stories of human and divine love they tell, in this captivating exhibition featuring more than sixty visually stunning 13th-18th-century Persian, Mughal and Ottoman manuscripts from the library's collection. These magnificently illustrated works come from one of the richest periods in the history of the book and give a fascinating insight into the great artistic and literary culture of Persia and its timeless stories. There will also be a series of lunchtime lectures accompanying the exhibition.

Mexico: from picture to print

23 February – 31 March

This display showcases a number of early printed books from Mexico, including volumes in indigenous languages such as Nahuatl and Zapotec. The books reflect the history of printing in the New World, as well as exploring themes of travel and discovery. The centrepiece of the exhibition, however, will be the Codex Mendoza. There will also be a lunchtime lecture accompanying the display on 14 March.

National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh

Wha's like us?: A nation of dreams and ideas

Closes 18th May

This exhibition presents a selection of material from the Library's collections as an A to Z of Scottish achievement. Serious topics such as mathematics and philosophy appear alongside lighter items including red hair and Scotland's contribution to the world of biscuits.

Manuscripts Curator Maria Castrillo said: 'I hope people who visit the exhibition will have their curiosity aroused, not just about what Scotland has given to the world but what we have in the Library. People may be surprised to see the wide range of things we collect.'

Other events

Friday 14 February 2014, 18.00-19.30

Lonely hearts, wedding bells and illicit pleasures: a far from sentimental journey of how London loved in print

This walk will carry you back through time to learn how the printing press often played a crucial role in the varying experiences of romance, love and relationships. Singletons and couples are invited to spend ninety minutes of Valentine's Day discovering how Londoners of the past might set about finding their match and hearing from the literature that recorded such journeys.

In the company of Alice Ford-Smith (Bernard Quaritch Ltd), *Lonely Hearts, Wedding Bells and Illicit Pleasures* will uncover tales across the relationship spectrum. From Bloomsbury to the streets around Covent Garden, you will hear accounts of loneliness, friendship, love, passion, scandal, jealousy and exploitation. Books are behind them all, accompanied by the occasional librarian and many a person of business.

The walk's meeting point will be the Wellcome Trust's headquarters (Wellcome Trust, Gibbs Building, 215 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE) and we will begin with viewing a display of related material from the Wellcome Library collections. After which, we will set out to explore the streets of London. The walk ends at approximately 7.30pm not far from Charing Cross. Please be ready for no breaks and the occasional saucy storyline!

Numbers are limited to 20 people, and pre-booking is essential.

Tickets, which are non-refundable, are £10 each. Please email jo.maddocks@bl.uk to reserve your place. This event is open to all, so early booking is recommended.

NEW RESOURCES

In print

McKnight, Owen 'Reading for servants', Worcester College Record 2013, pp. 96-100

This article examines a notebook which records the use and contents of the Oxford college's nineteenth-century small servant library. McKnight has managed to identify nearly all the books in the library, although none survive at Worcester College today. The article can be freely read online

via: <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~bodl0842/publications/reading-for-servants.pdf>.

Alice Ford-Smith, Bernard Quaritch

Rivers, Isabel: 'Thomas Jackson (1783-1873), book collector, editor, and tutor', Wesley and Methodist Studies, vol. 6, 2014, pp. 63-88.

Jackson was a Wesleyan Methodist minister who formed a very extensive collection of books which was bought by James Heald and gifted to Richmond College, the Methodist ministerial training institution, in the late 1850s. The College closed in the 1970s and some of the collection was dispersed, although a large amount survives at the John Rylands Library. Rivers does not tell the complete story of Jackson's collection, but her article usefully brings together in one place what is currently known about it.

Clive Field, OBE

University of St Andrews 600 years of book collecting (University of St Andrews, University Library, 2013)

St. Andrews have released a new series of 6 books of their treasures, (Divinity & politics; The natural world; Language & literature; Astronomy & mathematics; Geography & exploration; and Arts). These can be purchased separately, and have also been released as box set in a limited edition of an appropriate 600 copies.

<http://standrewsrarebooks.wordpress.com/2013/12/10/600-years-of-book-collecting-limited-edition-boxed-set-now-available/>

Warkentin, G., Black, J.L., and Bowen, W.R. eds. The Library of the Sidneys of Penshurst Place circa 1665 (University of Toronto Press, 2013)

For two centuries (1540-1740) the Sidney family of Penshurst Place, Kent, produced poets, courtiers, collectors, and at least one revolutionary. Increasingly aware of the cultural ideal of the learned nobleman and of libraries as

representations of that ideal, the Sidneys amassed one of the largest gentry libraries in England of their period. This edition of their library catalogue provides a vivid portrait of the birth, growth, and eventual demise of the distinguished family's library collection.

Comprised of nearly 5000 entries, the catalogue is presented with a full introduction describing the Sidneys' intellectual world and life, their reading and collecting, the women collectors of the family, and the dispersal of the library in 1743. The editors employ all the resources of contemporary bibliography, print and digital, to identify the titles in the catalogue, and where possible to locate the Sidneys' own copies still extant, as well as architectural analysis to identify and describe the library room at Penshurst, now lost to nineteenth-century renovations.

<http://www.utppublishing.com/The-Library-of-the-Sidneys-of-Penshurst-Place-circa-1665.html>

Online

Digitization of the full back catalogue of **Library and Information History** is now complete, and all past issues of *Library History* and *Library and Information History* can be viewed via our new online platform at <http://www.maneyonline.com/loi/lbh>. All subscriptions now include online access to the full journal archives from Volume 1, 1967. A series of editorial retrospectives is planned to mark the completion of the digitization project, and to reflect on landmark articles contained in the back catalogue.

The journal continues to publish high quality, fully-refereed articles on the social, cultural and intellectual history of information, books, libraries, and all forms of knowledge in society. The editorial board would particularly welcome ideas or fully formed proposals for guest edited special issues on important themes in library and information history.

Mark Towsey, Lecturer in Modern British History, Liverpool

Dissenting Academies Online: Virtual Library System -- Dr Williams's Centre for Dissenting Studies

The Virtual Library System was relaunched in September 2013 with the addition of the catalogue of the library of the Lancashire Independent College, Manchester and details of the 2,500 surviving books from the Northern Congregational College. The books, dating from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries, are unusually rich in provenance and evidence of use, both institutional and private, the latter including fascinating examples of the everyday reader--men and women who owned only a handful of books and whose annotations are the only evidence of their interaction with them. The VLS for the first time includes high resolution images of the title pages and marks of ownership for these books, which are held at The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester. The details of the previous owners, both private and institutional, are included in the fully searchable database. For access and further information see: <http://vls.english.qmul.ac.uk/>

NEWS IN BRIEF

CERL's *Early Book Database in Britain* has a new address, and improved functionality. <http://ebob.cerl.org>

The *Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources* has reached the end of the project after only 100 years!

The Institute of English Studies have launched a blog. <http://englishstudies.blogs.sas.ac.uk/>

The Bibliographic Society is compiling a list of pre-1800 catalogues and lists of chapmen's books and wants your help. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TxLKwieOYQXVKcDt_TbEnUUbl2Jd4FbmKndJ2xc0hRA/edit?usp=sharing ...](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TxLKwieOYQXVKcDt_TbEnUUbl2Jd4FbmKndJ2xc0hRA/edit?usp=sharing...)

The Bodleian's Incunable Catalogue (Bod-Inc) <http://incunables.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/> is now online.

The ever popular London Rare Books School <http://www.ies.sas.ac.uk/london-rare-books-school> includes a new course on the history of readers and reading.

The National Archives Library and Friends' House collections are now on COPAC.

The **Research Network on Community Libraries** are holding their second colloquium *Digital Approaches to Library History*, in Chicago on 30 May-1 June. Provisional programme at <http://communitylibraries.net/program/>.

The **Sandars Lectures** by Professor Nigel Morgan continue in Cambridge. 26 February: *Sandars as collector of medieval and renaissance manuscripts*; 5 March: *The illuminated manuscripts I*; 12 March: *The illuminated manuscripts II*.

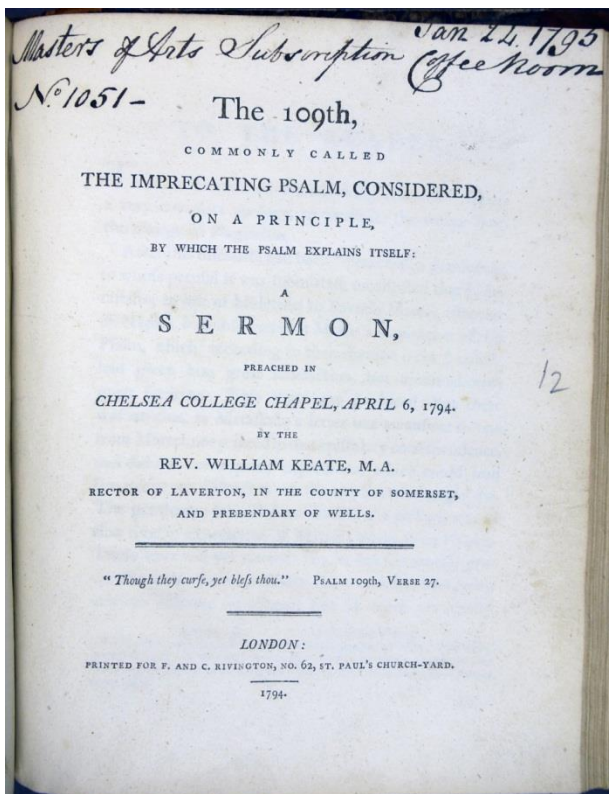
Tuesday April 15 (5.30pm) (Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London W1J 0BE) [Bibliographical Society \(2013-14\)](#) Graham Pollard Memorial Lecture - Charles Sebag-Montefiore: *Robert Stayner Holford (1808-92): A Great Victorian Collector Re-discovered*.

Wednesday May 7 (5.15pm) (Taylor Institution, Oxford) [Oxford Bibliographical Society \(2013-14\)](#) - (3.30pm) Visit to the All Souls College Library. Members wishing to come should inform the Secretary at least 2 weeks in advance.

Librarians' Christian Fellowship is being relaunched as **Christians in Library and Information Services** at its annual conference *Moving Forward* on 5 April at Hughes Parry Hall, London. The speakers will be Dr. Neil Hudson, on *Losing the Plot But Trusting the Author* and Dr. Peter Brierley on *Resourcing Leaders for Better Decision Making*. Attendance is open to all at a cost of £25.00, including lunch and refreshments. (£20.00 concessions). <http://www.librarianscf.org.uk/events/conferences/forthcoming.html>

NEWS IN DEPTH

Sermons at the Coffee House Library



Serendipity is a wonderful thing. A speculative keyword search for 'Chelsea' in the St John's College Cambridge catalogue (looking for items to interest visiting Chelsea Pensioners) retrieved a record for a sermon preached in Chelsea College Chapel in 1794. No surprise there; we have an awful lot of sermons in our collections, but the provenance of this one caught my eye. It was inscribed: "Masters of Arts Subscription Coffee Room No. 1051, Jan 24 1795". Our recataloguing project, completed in 2011, aimed wherever possible to include provenance information, and it has proved time and again to have been worth the not inconsiderable effort. Some of you may remember the fascinating talk given by Markman Ellis to the LIHG on his work to identify volumes formerly owned by coffee house libraries. His article in *The Library* (Ellis M (2009). *Coffee-House Libraries in Mid-Eighteenth-Century London. The Library: the transactions of the Bibliographical Society* vol. 10, (1) 3-40.) won the Group's essay prize for 2010, and the accompanying database is now on the Bibliographical Society's website. He traced works from many eighteenth-century London coffee-house libraries, plus some in Oxford, and one in Cambridge: The Masters of Arts Coffee Room, from which two items are known to have survived: Jeremy Bentham *Supply without burthen... comprized in the budget of 7 Dec 1795*,

published in 1795 and inscribed by the coffee house on 22 December of the same year, and William Lisle Bowles *Hope: an allegorical sketch on recovering slowly from sickness*, published and accessioned in 1796. Coffee houses were largely a mid-seventeenth to early nineteenth-century phenomenon [I read this sitting in an Oxford coffee house – ed.]. None of these libraries survives and there is very little documentary evidence of their operations. Our

knowledge of them is mostly gleaned from the chance and rare survivals of individual items from their collections in other libraries.

Coffee-house culture clearly thrived in Cambridge. Sources indicate fifteen coffee houses in the city, between the mid-seventeenth and early nineteenth centuries. A 1791 directory lists five coffee-house keepers at that time. Evidence for libraries in these coffee houses is limited. Coincidentally, a recent archaeological dig at St John's during the refurbishment of the old Divinity School has uncovered abundant evidence for Clapham's Coffee House just across the road from the College; archaeologists have even been able to reconstruct the menu on offer. They were really digging the medieval graveyards - the eighteenth-century finds were a bonus. (See the January 2014 issue of *Current Archaeology* if you're interested!)



The item I chanced upon was from the Wood Collection (catalogued since Markman's project was completed). James Wood started life as a poor weaver's son from Lancashire, whose mathematical abilities won him a scholarship to Cambridge. He rose through the ranks of the Fellowship to become Master of St John's, and a rich man. By his death in 1839, he had amassed some 4000 volumes on a wide range of subjects, which he bequeathed to the College Library. Besides mathematics, classics, law, politics, travel and literature, he collected both collected editions of sermons, and individual sermons, many volumes of which he had bound uniformly in quarter leather and marbled paper. This find was in just such a bindup, containing 14 sermons, dating from 1789 to 1795, all but the first of which was inscribed as having belonged to the Masters of Arts Coffee Room. The first has a running number which tallies with later items, and is almost certainly also from the coffee house. We can only speculate how and when Wood came by them. From there being just two known items from this coffee house, we now have sixteen! These sermons reveal a surprising amount about the operation of the library. The majority are dated, and all but one are numbered, which allows us to calculate that over the six years covered by this volume the library consistently acquired an average of eight

new items a month. It is particularly satisfying to see that the numbering fits with the works by Bentham and Bowles already known, which were on very different subjects, suggesting a single accessions sequence for all material. Extrapolating backwards and assuming a constant rate of acquisitions, the numbering suggests that the library can have come into existence no earlier than mid 1782 - probably later, assuming a larger initial stock. Works were usually purchased very shortly after publication, in some cases within weeks of the sermon being preached. Two sermons bear a price: one shilling and one shilling and sixpence. Stock was current, as would be expected in a coffee-house library, where gentlemen gathered to discuss the latest news of the day. Sermons were clearly of sufficient interest to a Cambridge graduate audience to be worth collecting by a coffee-house library. (Their prevalence amongst our collections would bear this out.) From so small a sample it is impossible to speculate on the subject range covered by the Masters of Arts library, or the proportion of material in certain categories. The discovery of these items here in Cambridge though gives some hope that there may be more works previously owned by the Masters of Arts which could have survived in as yet uncatalogued collections in other College libraries. There is much still to be discovered about this library, and indeed, my own investigations have led me to find out much more about it from some rather unexpected sources. I mean to write this up more fully in the near future.

Images by permission of the Master and Fellows of St John's College, Cambridge

Kathryn McKee
Sub-Librarian and Special Collections Librarian,
St John's College, Cambridge

The London Rare Books School and a New Course on the History of Libraries

The London Rare Books School began in 2007 and grew quickly to a flourishing international concern offering students around twelve courses over two weeks each summer, ranging from bibliography to bindings and from books in the ancient world to modern first editions. Book history is possible only because books have been preserved in libraries; and the LRBS emphasised libraries from its beginning. The emphasis was partly on libraries as resources containing the historic (and not quite so historic) books being discussed, with the viewing of books being an integral part of the course. Libraries have also been built into the teaching, implicitly or explicitly. The course on children's books, for example, looks at the "public and private adults who mediate reading" and the course on modern firsts examines collecting and provenance. That on the Anglo-Saxon and Carolingian book includes a session on Carolingian books and libraries; the one on the printed book in Europe, 1450-2000, devotes a session to "Book collecting, provenance and libraries"; and libraries are liberally woven into the course on the book in the ancient world.

2013 witnessed a greater concentration on the history of libraries with a new course devoted to the history of libraries from the Middle Ages to the present. Over twenty hours, the course ranged from the handful of codices in a cupboard in a monastery cloister of the Dark Ages to the millions of volumes in a large academic or national library today. It looked at private libraries and at various types of public ones (ecclesiastical, national, subscription, academic, public). Similarities were underlined, and so were differences: variations between different sorts of libraries in the past, and between past and present repositories of books. The typical American university library of the early nineteenth century described by Charles Jewett in 1850 as "frequently the chance aggregations of the gifts of charity; too many of them discarded as well nigh worthless from the shelves of the donors" and open a few hours, in extreme cases only a single hour, per week, bears little resemblance to its modern counterpart. By contrast, Richard de Bury's complaint about students from 1344/45 is lamentably familiar: "His nails are stuffed with fetid filth as lack as jet, with which he marks any passage that pleases him. He distributes a multitude of straws, which he inserts to stick out in different places, so that the halm may remind him of what his memory cannot retain. [...] He does not fear to eat fruit or cheese over an open book, or carelessly to carry a cup to and from his mouth; and [...] he drops into books the fragments that are left". The course also looked at resources helping us to discover library history.

Additionally, the course achieved the following:

- It demonstrated the lively interest in the history of libraries, with ten students based in England, Ireland, Hong Kong and the United States coming together to explore the development of libraries;
- It provided a context for those researching in a particular area of library history;
- It provided an understanding of the past to inform the future;
- It noted the connections between the history of libraries and other kinds of history: for example, architecture, role of women, scholarship, censorship;
- It opened avenues for further exploration, as students asked questions to which the answer is: "we don't know".

While no twenty-hour course could cover all libraries in all periods, the course raised awareness of the subject and provided a structured overview. Long may it continue!

Karen Attar
Rare Books Librarian
Senate House

Historic Libraries Forum annual conference, Royal Asiatic Society, London 19 November 2013 To have and to hold: guarding against dispersal of collections

Librarians and archivists from across the UK (and beyond) converged at the Royal Asiatic Society in November, for this year's Historic Libraries Forum conference. The conference focussed on aspects of collection management, with a particular emphasis on good practice with regard to disposals. Throughout 2013, the HLF was heavily involved in discussions and campaigns over at-risk collections and, unsurprisingly given the timeliness of the topic, the conference was sold-out.

Attendees were fortunate to witness some excellent speakers. David McKitterick (Trinity College Cambridge) delivered a wide-ranging keynote presentation that made a lasting impression. There was a valuable presentation from Alison Cullingford (University of Bradford) on collection development policies, and insightful and varied case studies from Chris Penney (Hurd Library), Helen Cordell (Royal Asiatic Society), Emma Greenwood (Jerwood Library Trinity Laban Conservatoire) and Peter Keelan (University of Cardiff). Drawing on a range of experiences from a breadth of contexts, the case studies were of historical, theoretical and practical interest. Sadly HLF chair Katie Flanagan was unable to attend due to illness, but Alison Wilson (Murray Edwards College) did a sterling job reading Katie's presentation in her place, explaining the HLF's role and recounting its efforts over the past year, not least as a "watchdog" for historic libraries and their collections.

David McKitterick's talk had a broad thematic and temporal scope that I am unable to do justice here. Suffice it to say that he looked at different episodes in the history of the care of books in this country, and provided enough context and perspective to explain, for example, why so many of the historic collections that we encounter today originated in the late nineteenth century. He emphasised that libraries have always disposed of books and indeed this is necessary and inevitable in many cases—bringing to my mind Ranganathan's principles that the library is a growing organism and that books are for use. But disposals of special collections are sensitive and complex issues that should be handled intelligently, with care, and with recourse to certain values; we have seen several prominent cases in the past year where these basic requirements were not met.

For me, perhaps the most important part of the presentation was when David looked at the Arts Council accreditation standards for museums, and highlighted what a major failing it is that there is no comparable accreditation system in place for libraries and for the care of library collections. We are stewards not just of our collections, but of our profession and its future. The vast majority of librarians see the value of special collections and share the values which are embodied in, for example, the museum accreditation standards; but librarians and the public often lack the power to protect collections at the mercy of ambivalent or indifferent parent institutions which may be free to act without constraint. The media furore over the University of London's Shakespeare folios was largely due to the Shakespeare connection, and we can not always rely on that kind of response to protect threatened collections. With the Arts Council reviewing the Designation scheme, and seeking to clearly define the distinction between Designation and Accreditation, it seems that this could be the time for a discussion about the case for a formal accreditation scheme for the care of library collections.

The conference seemed a great success with much audience participation and discussion throughout the day. Personally, it was wonderful to meet so many librarians at all stages of their professional development, and hailing from a dazzling array of institutions. The day did have its depressing notes, which was inevitable considering the discussion of special collections that have been dispersed or lost; but there were many more success stories highlighting collections that have been saved, preserved and revitalised; and the passion, commitment and understanding of the conference attendees inspired confidence as well as admiration.

Ed Weech
Deputy Library Manager
Bishopsgate Library

This is an edited version of a report originally written for the newsletter of the Association of Independent Libraries.

News of historic religious libraries

There has been another unexpected turn in the long-running saga of the **Scottish Catholic Archives**, with an announcement on their website that the post-1878 archives of the Scottish Catholic Church are again available for research at Columba House in Edinburgh. Columba House was closed with effect from 8 April 2013, on the grounds that the accommodation was "not fit for purpose" and that the post-1878 archives needed to be rehoused. It is not known whether any remedial works have been undertaken on the premises in the interim or what staffing arrangements are currently in place. Nevertheless, researchers will obviously welcome the fact that access to Columba House has now been restored, albeit on a prior appointment basis. (For further details see: <http://www.scottishcatholicarchives.org.uk/>) It will be recalled that, despite vigorous protests from many historians, the pre-1878 archives of the Scottish Catholic Church have been transferred, on long-term loan, to the Sir Duncan

Rice Library at the University of Aberdeen, where they can already be consulted. See further: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/about/special/scottish-catholic-archives/> The archives of the Archdiocese of Glasgow since 1878, together with records from the former Western District Vicariate dating back to the 1820s, remain in Glasgow (but accessible by arrangement with the archdiocesan archivist).

In September the **Bible Society** announced that it intends to open in 2014 a new visitor centre in a deconsecrated church in North Wales, on the shore of Lake Bala. The centre will tell the story of the Bible's impact on Wales and, through Wales, the rest of the world. Funding for the initiative is to be raised 'through the sale of some assets, and donations from Bible Societies around the world and supporters'. It now emerges that the assets being sold include biblical manuscripts which form part of the Society's library and archives which have been built up incrementally since the Society's foundation in 1804. The collection has been on deposit, and publicly accessible, at Cambridge University Library since the Society moved its headquarters from London to Swindon in 1985. In return for its custodianship, the Library receives an annual grant from the Society (£39,000 in 2012-13).

The Society's disposal policy is set out in its annual report and accounts for 2012-13: 'Bible Society occasionally disposes of items where un-catalogued duplicate materials are identified or where materials are not a core part of the historic Bible collection. The proceeds generated are generally used for the enhancement of the collection by cataloguing, conservation and digitisation, as well as occasional purchases of relevant and related printed and manuscript material. During the year ended 31 March 2013, sales of uncatalogued duplicates totalled £115,000 (2012, £Nil).' The planned sale of a small number of manuscripts is being handled by Christies on behalf of the Society. It seems likely that the manuscripts are those which are mentioned in the report and accounts for 2012-13 as having been recently valued at £1.8 million. It is hard to imagine how these can be defined as 'non-core', and certainly the proceeds of the sale do not seem destined to be ploughed back into the collection.

Cambridge University Library is being offered first refusal to buy six of the Society's manuscripts, and has launched a public appeal to raise £1.1 million to purchase the single most important manuscript, the Codex Zacynthius. The Codex is said to be the oldest extant New Testament manuscript with a commentary alongside the text. It is classed as in 'the top flight of Biblical manuscripts' by Lord Williams of Oystermouth. The Library has until the end of February 2014 to raise the £1.1 million. This will be a stretching fundraising target for the Library, not least since it comes so soon after completion of fundraising to purchase (with the Bodleian Libraries in Oxford) for £1.2 million the Lewis-Gibson Genizah Collection of Hebrew and Arabic manuscripts from Westminster College, Cambridge. If it is unsuccessful, the Codex Zacynthius will presumably go to auction, and there is a fair chance that it will be sold to a foreign institution or a private collector, and thus be lost for the nation.

The Bible Society's decision to sell important and unique Biblical items from its heritage collection is regrettable and, some of its donors and legators may well feel, a betrayal of the Society's past. It also begs the question of what further sales from the collection the Society may contemplate in future.

Finally, the Bishop and Trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lancaster have recently and peremptorily announced the permanent **closure of the Talbot Library** in Preston, with effect from 31 December 2013. The Library was established by Bishop John Brewer and Canon Robbie Canavan in 1992 and has quickly grown to a collection of some 60,000 volumes of predominantly Roman Catholic and Irish interest. Outside of monastic foundations, it is one of the most important Catholic library collections in the country. The decision to close has been taken without any external consultation and, so far as can be learned, without a proper option appraisal. The Diocese of Lancaster attributes the closure of the Library to 'the imminent retirement of Deacon Michael Dolan, Librarian ... relatively few users and increasing costs'. Most of the books and periodicals will be dispersed, although a small archive centre containing records relating to the Diocese is to be created at an unspecified location.

The fullest account of the closure of the Talbot Library, including adverse reactions, is currently to be found on the Independent Catholic News website at: <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=23831>

Dr Clive D Field, OBE

Library Camp and the Unconference Movement

What is Library Camp?

Library Camp was conceived at a 2011 unconference for local government. Three attending librarians realised that Libraries satisfied the conditions stipulated for a successful unconference more than most local government bodies. These conditions are considered to be high levels of;

Complexity, in term of the tasks to be done or outcomes achieved;

Diversity, in terms of the people involved and/or needed to make any solution work;

Conflict, real or potential, meaning people really care about the central issue or purpose;

and Urgency.

By these criteria Libraries are, few would disagree, suitable candidates for an unconference.



Photo courtesy of @SashaTaylor

What is an unconference?

An unconference is an ugly name for a beautifully simple idea. The idea that all too often at any conference, the coffee and lunch breaks are the most productive times of the day. Times where the debate naturally focuses on the topics relevant to the debaters. This idea was extrapolated and became the unconference. At an unconference the first task is for the participants to decide which subjects they will discuss. Members of the audience are encouraged to host a session about a topic of their choice. When the required number of sessions is reached, dictated by amount of spaces and length of time, the organisers rota the sessions and the day begins.

Why, just why?

Unconferences are about dialogue. As library camps are free to attend, open to and organised by anyone, everyone is encouraged to have their say. The traditional conference is a suitable medium for exchanging ideas and communicating thoughts and opinions. Certainly the conference is well suited to plenty of circumstances and settings and will continue to provide. The unconference is useful where the earlier conditions (High levels of complexity, diversity, conflict and urgency) are evident and where a new approach needs to be tried. Indeed, if it is recognised that high levels of these conditions have been met then surely something different must be tried. Libraries would not have found such a use for unconferences fifty, forty or even thirty years ago.

So what's next then?

To badly misquote Dan Slee, any successful new technology goes through an initial phase of "This is fantastic and going to change the world" through "Actually that's crap and won't do anything of the sort" to arrive at "OK so it's not going to change the world but it is fantastic and look at what other cool stuff it does"

When asked about LibraryCamp by well meaning colleagues, inevitably the phrase "So you don't/won't actually do/achieve anything then?" arises. This is generally taken to mean that unconferences have no concrete outcomes. My reply used to point out about how re-enthusing the camps were, that friendships formed and partnerships created with campers swapping tricks, tips and treats. I pointed out how the collective knowledge of the 200+ people at your average conference dwarfs the knowledge of the solitary, albeit expert speaker and how that zeitgeist can fuel an untapped furnace of white hot creativity. Now I just explain that I like the sound of my own voice and ask what was the concrete outcome they took away from their last £500 conference? Did we mention that LibraryCamps are free for anyone to attend?

Sue Lawson, Service Development Coordinator, Manchester City Council

Richard Veevers, Frontline Library Officer, Lancashire County Council

Library Camp Officers

AWARDS AND PRIZES

Awards and prizes received

Professor Dr Bernhard Fabian is to be awarded the **Karl-Preusker-Medaille** <www.bideutschland.de/karl-preusker-medaille> by Bibliothek und Information Deutschland (the German equivalent of CILIP). The medal commemorates Karl Benjamin Preusker (1786-1871), the pioneer of public libraries in Germany, and is awarded, usually annually, to people of distinction in the world of libraries and information. Fabian, now retired from the English Faculty at Münster, has been very influential in the development of research libraries in Germany and more widely in Europe and also in library history, not least through his 47-volume "Handbuch der Historischen Buchbestände".

We are pleased to announce that **Alistair Black** is the winner of the **Library History Essay Award** for 2013. His essay is: Alistair Black, 'Organizational Learning and Home-Grown Writing: The Library Staff Magazine in Britain in the First Half of the Twentieth Century', *Information & Culture*, vol. 47, no. 4 (2012), pp. 487-513.

We are grateful to all those who allowed their essays to be nominated for the 2013 award.
Dorothy Clayton, John Rylands University Library of Manchester (Awards Manager LIHG)

Awards and grants offered

From January 2014, nominations are invited for the **Library History Essay Award 2014** and details will be posted on the LIHG website. In the meantime if anyone would like information about our awards, please contact:

dorothy.clayton@manchester.ac.uk

Dorothy Clayton, John Rylands University Library of Manchester (Awards Manager LIHG)

The **Printing Historical Society** is continuing its programme of grants in 2014, for work including:

- Research on topics relating to the history of printing
- Publishable reports on archives relating to the history of printing

Details of the Grants Scheme are at: www.printinghistoricalsociety.org.uk/grants_programme/index.html

Application deadline: 1 April 2014.

All enquiries to the Chairman of the PHS Grants and Prizes Sub-Committee, Giles Mandelbrote, at: giles.mandelbrote@churchofengland.org.

To celebrate the opening of the **University of St Andrews'** new research library the University has announced a new scheme of visiting scholarships, which will underwrite the costs of a period of work in the library Special Collections <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/library/specialcollections/>.

The scholarships are open to all interested researchers, whether or not affiliated to a university. Applications should be submitted electronically by 28 February 2014. Further details, including a longer description of the research highlights of the St Andrews Special Collections, and application form can be found on the USTC website:

<http://ustc.ac.uk/index.php/news/view/st-andrews-library-announces-new-visiting-scholarship-scheme> Further enquiries can be addressed to Professor Andrew Pettegree <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history/staff/andrewpettegree.html> at admp@st-andrews.ac.uk.

The **Wellcome Library** has made funds available to pay the **open access publishing costs for research papers** based on their collections. To be eligible to apply for these funds:

- the Wellcome Library's collections must have substantively informed the work
- the research article, monograph or book chapter must have been peer reviewed and accepted for publication
- the researcher must not already be in receipt of funding that could be used to pay the open access publishing costs.

To find out more and to make an application, visit <http://wellcomelibrary.org/about-us/projects/wellcome-library-open-access-fund/>

CALL FOR PAPERS

Library & Information History Conference 2014: Medieval and Renaissance Lost Libraries

The 2014 conference of CILIP's Library and Information History Group will have the theme **Medieval and Renaissance Lost Libraries**. It will be held at Senate House in London on **Saturday 12 July 2014**.

Papers are welcome on such topics as libraries that have been destroyed either deliberately or accidentally, stolen books and libraries, fractured collections and losses due to weeding policy. Examples may be taken from any country in the world.

Abstracts of no more than 250 words (for individual 20 minute papers) should be sent to Monica Blake at info@blakeinformation.com by 3 March 2014.

Accepted conference papers will be considered for publication in a special issue of the Group's journal *Library & Information History*.

Error and Print Culture, 1500-1800:

A one-day conference at the Centre for the Study of the Book, Oxford University
Saturday 5 July 2014

Recent histories of the book have replaced earlier narratives of technological triumph and revolutionary change with a more tentative story of continuities with manuscript culture and the instability of print. An abstract sense of technological agency has given way to a messier world of collaboration, muddle, money, and imperfection. Less a confident stride towards modernity, the early modern book now looks stranger: not quite yet a thing of our world. What role might error have in these new histories of the hand-press book? What kinds of error are characteristic of print, and what can error tell us about print culture? Are particular forms of publication prone to particular mistakes? How effective were mechanisms of correction (cancel-slips; errata lists; over-printing; and so on), and what roles did the printing house corrector perform? Did readers care about mistakes? Did authors have a sense of print as an error-prone, fallen medium, and if so, how did this inform their writing? What links might we draw between representations of error in literary works (like Spenser's *Faerie Queene*), and the presence of error in print? How might we think about error and retouching or correcting rolling-press plates? What is the relationship between engraving historians' continuum of difference, and letter-press bibliographers' binary of variant/invariant? Was there a relationship between bibliographical error and sin, particularly in the context of the Reformation? How might modern editors of early modern texts respond to errors: are errors things to correct, or to dutifully transcribe? Is the history of the book a story of the gradual elimination of error, or might we propose a more productive role for slips and blunders?

Proposals for 20-minute papers are welcome on any aspect of error and print, in Anglophone or non-Anglophone cultures. Please email a 300-word abstract and a short CV to Dr Adam Smyth (adam.smyth@balliol.ox.ac.uk) by 14 April 2014.

Forms and Formats: Experimenting with Print, 1695-1815

University of Oxford 8-9 September 2014

Organised by:

Centre for the Study of the Book, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford and Centre for Research on the English-Speaking World (CREC/CREW) Université Sorbonne-Nouvelle.

Plenary Speakers: Dr. Christine Ferdinand (Magdalen College, Oxford), Pr. James Raven (University of Essex)

From broadside ballads and Lilliputian folios to printed engravings and manuals, from newspapers and pamphlets to abridgements and anthologies, a vast variety of print circulated in eighteenth-century Britain and its colonies. How did authors, printers, engravers or booksellers experiment with new forms of publication and with what results? To what extent did regulations related to copyright, taxation, or postal distribution affect the choices of authors and publishers? How did changes in printing format (octavo, duodecimo, etc.) alter the experiences of readers and reveal changes in the book trade?

Papers could examine a specific text or image as it appeared across different formats, or consider a particular category (the monthly magazine, the advertisement, the abridged novel, etc.) in relation to its material form(s). Whether focusing on the evolution of techniques and materials or the changing practices of authors and readers, conference participants are encouraged to include analysis of works held by one of the host libraries-- The Bodleian Library, Jesus College Fellows' Library, and Oriel College Senior Library. Copies of relevant works will be displayed during the conference.

Please supply a 300-word proposal and a one-page C.V. by 15 February 2014 to: formsandformats2014@gmail.com.

Call for Proposals for book chapters for the 40th anniversary of the Section on Education and Training

World Library and Information Congress, 80th IFLA General Council and Congress, "Libraries, Citizens and Societies: Confluence for Knowledge"

16-22 August 2014, Lyon, France.

Those interested in contributing a chapter to a monograph celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Section on Education and Training should prepare a proposal of no more than 1,500 words (10,000 spaces). The finished chapters should be between 5,000 and 10,000 words.

Proposals should focus on library and information science education and training (not libraries per se).

Proposals may take a local, national or regional perspective.

Historical proposals are preferred and they should explain the social and cultural context of the institutions being described. Authors are encouraged to include future plans and perspectives as well as information about the past.

Proposals may be in any of the official IFLA languages, but German, French, Spanish and English are preferred. Some authors may be invited to present at the off-site session on August 18, 2014 of the 2015 IFLA Conference in Lyon.

Proposals should be sent to seadle@hu-berlin.de. The deadline for proposals is 24 January 2014.